

CHAPTER 2.9.4.

NOSEMOSIS OF HONEY BEES

Article 2.9.4.1.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

Article 2.9.4.2.

Country or zone with an official control programme for nosemosis

To be considered as a country or zone with an official control programme for nosemosis, a country or zone should fulfil the following requirements:

- 1) the *Veterinary Administration* has current knowledge of, and authority over, all beehives existing in the country or zone;
- 2) the control programme complies with the general provisions of Appendix 3.4.2., and is supervised by the *Veterinary Administration*;
- 3) nosemosis is notifiable in the whole country, and any clinical cases suggestive of nosemosis are subjected to field and laboratory investigations;
- 4) a sample of the bee population of each hive in the country or zone should be collected at least every year and subjected to a diagnostic test for nosemosis; the sample size should be sufficient to provide at least 99% confidence of detecting the disease if it is present at a within hive prevalence rate exceeding 5%;
- 5) all infected hives should be either treated with appropriate antibiotics or destroyed.

Article 2.9.4.3.

Country or zone free from nosemosis

To be considered free from nosemosis, a country or zone should fulfil the following requirements:

- 1) an official control programme for nosemosis has existed in the country or zone for at least 3 years, and no *outbreak* of nosemosis has been reported during this period;
- 2) then, annual surveys, with negative results, are carried out on a representative sample of all the beehives in the country or zone to provide a confidence level of at least 99% of detecting nosemosis if at least 0.2% of the hives were infected at a within hive prevalence rate of at least 5%;
- 3) the importation of the *commodities* listed in Article 2.9.4.4. into the country or zone is carried out in conformity with the import conditions contained in the relevant Articles of the present Chapter.

Appendix XVI (contd)

Article 2.9.4.4.

Veterinary Administrations of countries shall consider whether there is a risk with regard to nosemosis in accepting importation or transit through their territory, from other countries, of bees (queen honey bees, worker bees and drones).

Other *commodities* (honey bee semen, honey bee eggs, honey, honey bee-collected pollen, propolis or royal jelly) should be considered as not having the potential to spread nosemosis when they are the subject of *international trade*.

Article 2.9.4.5.

Veterinary Administrations of *importing countries* should require:

for queen honey bees, accompanying bees (worker bees) and drones with or without associated brood combs

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the bees:

- 1) come from a country or zone free from nosemosis; or
- 2) come from:
 - a) a country or zone with an official control programme for nosemosis;
 - b) hives that were subjected to sampling for nosemosis in accordance with point 4 of Article 2.9.4.2. on two occasions with negative results, the first sample being collected at least 4 months and no more than 12 months, and the second sample no more than 7 days, prior to shipment.

Article 2.9.4.6.

Veterinary Administrations of *importing countries* should require:

for used equipment associated with beekeeping

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the equipment was sterilised under the supervision of the *Veterinary Authority* by either gamma irradiation using a cobalt-60 source at a dose rate of 10 kGy, or exposure to ethylene oxide at greater than 600 mg/litre of air for greater than 8 hours at a temperature greater than 38°C and a relative humidity greater than 80%, or fumigation with a 60% dilution of acetic acid used at a dose of 2 ml/litre of confined space containing the equipment for 7 days, or heat treatment at a temperature of at least 49°C for at least 24 hours.